

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Istook Explores Oklahoma's Tech Future With Business Leaders

Oklahoma City, OK – Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) met with key members of Oklahoma's high-tech sector, to plan how to work together to build the high-tech sector in Oklahoma. They exchanged ideas during a meeting at the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce and Industry this week, discussing projects and initiatives, and exploring how they can work together to build the state's technology industry.

Ideas included bringing more high-level officials from federal agencies to visit Oklahoma, so they could see first-hand what companies here have to offer.

Istook explained how his position in Washington as an appropriations subcommittee chairman provides a major opportunity for quality Oklahoma companies to get their foot in the door with the federal government. Istook emphasized that he wants to work with Oklahoma companies to maximize the value for the taxpayer as well as to create opportunities for business and growth for Oklahoma.

"I want to know what you're doing, and I want you to know what I'm doing, so that we can find common ground to help Oklahoma," Istook told the group.

Istook is the chairman of the Treasury, Postal, and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee where he is in a key position to make and influence spending decisions by federal agencies. Istook specifically highlighted opportunities in federal information technology, medical research, and others. **"I want Oklahoma to have the same opportunities as other states,"** said Istook. **"Oklahoma has a lot to offer the technology community—quality research facilities, an well-established infrastructure, talented scientists and engineers, low overhead, and a dedicated workforce. If we work together to build the technology industry in our state, our children and grandchildren won't have to go out of state to find challenging, well-paying jobs."**

Attendees of the meeting included Rudy Alvarado of Advancia Corporation, Jeff Davis of Acorn Growth Co., John Pompay of Intel, Jean Gumerson of Presbyterian Health Foundation, Dr. Frank Waxman of OU Health Science Center, Lisa Day of Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Larry Poe and Mark Stuchwick of Seagate Technologies, Susan Fryear of DocSoft, Jeff Harwell of the OU Engineering College, Dr. Lloyd Hildebrand of Inoveon, Ron Cooper of Center for Excellence in Information Technology, Joel Osborne of ForHealth Technologies, William Hildebrand of Pure Protein, Ashley Perkins of Southwestern Bell, Dara Derryberry-Prentice of Cox Communications, Randy Goldsmith of Oklahoma Technology Center, Carter Merkle of Career Technology, Kenneth Church and Cassy Church of Sciperio, Bob Rader of Capitol West Investments, Chad Vesper of Cisco Systems, Inc., John Frick of Chisholm Investments, Gary Nelson of Advanced Financial Solutions, and Bill Sibley of Oklahoma Center for Advancement of Science and Technology.